



# The College Reporter

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## Locker rooms remodeled to foster team spirit, comply with Title IX

BY BRIANA FERGUSON

*Contributing Writer*

Facilities and Operations (F&O) worked closely with Irwin and Leighton, a construction company from King of Prussia, Penn., on a project to renovate the locker rooms in the Mayser Center over the Summer.

After 13 weeks of work, the project was finished on Aug. 12, resulting in the complete renovation of the locker rooms, shower area, and the visiting team's locker rooms. The training room was also remodeled, expanding in area from 500 square feet to 1,500 square feet by combining it with the space for the visiting locker rooms. The visiting locker rooms were relocated; they are now closer to the equipment room. The men and women's locker rooms were also renovated, including making separate, functioning locker rooms for both men and women.

"If you weren't in the locker rooms before, those lockers were installed in 1959 and there were no upgrades made since then," said Sheldon Wenger, assistant director for project management, who oversaw the



photo courtesy of fandm.edu/news

**Over the Summer, Facilities & Operations (F&O) remodeled and improved the locker rooms in the Mayser Center in order to modernize the space.**

remodel.

There were several structural issues in the locker rooms that prompted the remodel, including plumbing issues and problems with the infrastructure. Both have been repaired with the update.

The space was also remodeled to be in compliance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, which requires equality for women and men in sports. In 1959, when

the locker rooms were originally constructed, the College was still an all-men's institution; thus, the locker rooms were still geared towards serving only the men that attended the schools and played sports.

The men and women's locker rooms used to be a large, open area with lockers and an open shower area. In this newly remodeled space, individual shower stalls were installed. Additionally, women and men now

have gender-specific sections of the locker room in contrast to the more open design in the previous space. In the women's locker room, a space that had only two bathroom stalls and two sinks, was increased into a space that is more geared towards being a facility for a team.

"The idea of this is to create ownership of this space, camaraderie, and to have a space to hang out in with a flat screen to watch sporty playbacks of their games," Wenger said. "They never had that opportunity before. They would have to find another room on campus to do that."

The Mayser Center is not the only athletic facility on campus that has been renovated. A few years ago, the practice field was added, and the William J. Iannicelli Track and Brooks Tennis Courts have recently been resurfaced. Additionally, the floors in the Alumni Sports & Fitness Center (ASFC) are scheduled for repair sometime in the future.

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## F&M extends promotions to professors, including tenured positions

BY GARRETT LARGOZA

*Contributing Writer*

Recently, the College announced that nine faculty members received promotions, effective July 1. Of the nine professors, five moved to the rank of full professor, while four went from assistant to associate professor.

Peter Fields, professor of biology; Robert Jinks, professor of biology; Stephen Medvic, professor of government; Nicholas Montemarano, professor of English; and Shawn O'Bryhim, professor of classics received positions as full professors, while Sylvia Alajaji, associate professor of music; Jaime Blair, associate professor of biology; Janna Iyengar, associate professor of computer science; and Kate Plass, associate professor of chemistry, became asso-

ciate professors.

"I can't think of anyone who didn't deserve the promotions," said Rob Jinks, newly-promoted professor of biology. "They are very active, very rigorous, and all of them are excellent teachers."

To qualify for the title of professor, each candidate must work a minimum of six years as an associate professor. The newly-promoted professors now enjoy greater job security and academic freedom as a result of the promotion.

F&M determines tenure grants through a faculty member's demonstration of his or her effectiveness as a teacher, achievement as a scholar, and merit toward the campus community. At the College, faculty members are considered through a series of reviews by both students and peers,

as well as the Professional Standards Committee. Tenure is granted to a candidate based on a high degree of professional qualifications. According to the Committee, the following criteria must be met: teaching effectiveness, scholarship, and curriculum.

Teaching effectiveness is the ability to show excellence when engaging students in their studies. Students have a say in the faculty member's performance. At the end of the semester or school year, students are asked to take a survey in which they are polled on their thoughts about their courses and instructors.

The College defines scholarship as the advancement of knowledge through research. The Committee concerns itself with the faculty member's presentation of publications

that have been reviewed by informed peers. Professors are expected to partake in presentations at conferences and review the works of other scholars.

Additionally, curriculum includes the enhancement and development of a course. At the College, departmental chairs review this area.

Although their promotions have only been in effect for a few months, the professors seem optimistic about the future.

"We all strive to perform at our best, especially at a liberal arts college like F&M," Jinks said. "Tenure is only a landmark for faculty members."

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# Campus Life

## New exhibition explores memorials, architecture after World War I

BY ALLY BYRNE

Contributing Writer

A new art exhibition, “Building Memory: Architecture and the Great War,” opened Sept. 4 in the Gibson Curriculum Gallery of The Phillips Museum of Art. The exhibition chronicles the experiences that architects in Europe underwent during and after World War I (WWI), when they were charged with rebuilding destroyed cities and creating memorials to aid in the collective remembrance of the war.

The exhibit’s theme ties in with many other events that will take place throughout the year at F&M to commemorate WWI’s centenary. The exhibit features five architects, Paul P. Cret, Ralph Adams Cram, William Hough, Leicester Holland, and Richard Stillwell.

Many of these architects served in the army during WWI and dealt with the tragedy of the war firsthand, and “Building Memory” explores how their experiences shaped the architecture they later created and how they chose to rebuild after the war.

“Building Memory brings together these five architects and their collective experiences and explores how they shaped the commemoration of the war through the erection of the war monuments and the preservation of cultural heritage,” said Brittany Baksa, collections assistant at The Phillips Museum of Art. “The way the exhibit is organized is by architect. You will be viewing a little bit of history with a photo of the architect, and you will see some of their

original works, whether it’s blueprints or architectural drawings.”

Baksa was integral in the process of borrowing art from other museums and institutions to be included in the exhibit, as well as organizing the pieces in the exhibition.

“Building Memory” is the vision of Kostis Kourelis, assistant professor of art history, who approached The Phillips Museum last year with the idea to curate this exhibition and design a first-year Connections course around the topic. Kourelis’ students will spend a lot of time in the exhibition and learn from first-hand contact with the art.

“This is intended to be the subject of our semester studies,” Kourelis said. “It shows the artistic side of how various architects commemorated the war. Freshman will get their first introduction on how to read a visual picture.”

Baksa also described the process of curating the exhibition from start to finish.

“The museum receives an exhibition proposal [from an outside source] which is then reviewed by the museum staff,” Baksa said. “Then it is submitted to the exhibition committee, and, through that, the artists and the curators collaboratively work on a process to develop a comprehensive exhibition.”

“Building Memory” is also connected with another exhibition focusing on World War I, “Before Rosie the Riveter: Women and Work in World War I,” which documents women’s responses to the war. This exhibition opened Sep. 4 in the Rothman Gallery and fo-



photo courtesy of Kostis Kourelis, assistant professor of art history

**A new art exhibition entitled “Building Memory: Architecture and the Great War” commemorates World War I through various art works.**

cuses on the massive propaganda effort throughout the U.S. that brought women together during the war and encouraged them to join the workforce.

Baksa is hoping “Building Memory” will spark a general interest in architecture and how architecture and memorials affect how traumatic events are collectively remembered and reveal each architect’s different thought process and planning processes.

Kourelis also hopes the exhibition will convey to a broader audience the ways in which each architect was affected by the war, whether by watching their friends fight or fighting in it themselves. Instead of focusing on the violence of the war or its destruction, “Building Memory” explores how the architects responded to the war and helped to rebuild and memorialize those affected.

“More importantly, when the war was over, how did the artists use their skills to actually commemorate the war, this horrific experience?” Kourelis said.

The exhibition is divided into five sections, with one section for each different architect’s work. Within the works, there is a division between architects whose style was more classical and those who worked with the gothic style.

“The bottom line is that the classic exhibit wants to show people that there are these two vocabularies: the classical, the ancient, and then the Christian, the medieval, the gothic, the crafted,” Kourelis said. “These two are the two mediums that are used to talk about death and war.”

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## Convocation ceremony welcomes incoming class to College

BY KOLADE BOMODEOKU

Contributing Writer

With over 500 first-year students in the Class of 2018, the Convocation ceremony brought forth the new class and officially welcomed the students into the College Tuesday. Speakers included Daniel Porterfield, president of the College, Dean Hammer, the John W. Wetzel professor of classics and professor of government and New College House don, and students Emilie Woods ’16 and Gabrielle Woods ’16.

This tradition serves as a formal way for the incoming class to come together and officially undergo the transition into the College.

Convocation marks the formal end to orientation and is when the vice president and dean of admission introduce the class to the provost and dean of the faculty, who accepted the class. In addition, during the College Investiture Ceremony, the dons and College House

leaders welcome the members of the first-year class into their respective College Houses.

Hammer delivered the faculty remarks at this year’s Convocation, and was honored with the Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Foundation Award for Distinguished Teaching for 2013. He was excited to meet the new students and welcome them to life at F&M.

“I can’t wait to see all of the students in front of me, ready for a new adventure,” Hammer said prior to the ceremony.

Porterfield selects the theme for each year’s Convocation in collaboration with the faculty speaker. This year, the ceremony’s theme was “Voices,” which explores the possibility for students to begin a journey of self-discovery and find their voices while at F&M.

“It’s important for the student to speak up with an effective voice, to communicate what matters,” Hammer said “It’s good to have an

understanding of what you stand for, not just in the classroom, but outside and in a social context.”

In addition, Porterfield selects the student speakers for the ceremony. Tuesday, Emilie spoke to the incoming class, while her sister, Gabrielle, addressed the first-years through a video presentation as she is currently studying abroad in Chile.

“I feel honored to be speaking at the ceremony, and I hope I can connect with the incoming class and get across something meaningful,” Emilie said in the week leading up to Convocation.

The speakers occasionally discuss and collaborate on their speeches, which helps to unify the theme of the event and to ensure each speech is as good as it can be.

The Office of Protocol and Events is responsible for planning the event every year, and the planning was led by Deborah Murray

Martin, director of protocol and events and associate secretary of the College.

The ceremony, though it has been at the College for many decades, has transitioned over the years. Ten years ago, Convocation was moved from occurring on move-in day to happening at the end of orientation, which has made for a more formal ceremony. Three years ago, students began wearing academic robes over their clothing at Convocation ceremonies.

Convocation ceremonies happen at many colleges and universities around the nation. At F&M, Convocation is meant to serve as a parallel to the graduation ceremony.

With a very diverse class of students, the campus hopes to experience something new and gain fresh minds for campus involvement.

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# Arts & Entertainment



## Hawk explores new passion through Hackman Scholar Program *Student research illuminates historical prominence of Philadelphia ballet*

**Research Review**  
*Philadelphia Ballet*  
Emily Hawk

by Tracey Nguyen

Alongside Lynn Brooks, the Arthur and Katherine Shadek professor of humanities and dance and Brooks College House don, Emily Hawk '16 researched the cultural influences within the Philadelphia dance scene between 1820 and 1860.

Hawk began by theorizing about possible factors that led to the prominence of dance in Philadelphia, including the goal of emulating Europe.

"Finding connections that came from all these different places of my life and bringing it together for this project, I finally felt like a historian," Hawk said. "It made me want to research more."

For Hawk, dance and history, which are the two majors she is pursuing, did not intertwine until this past summer when she participated in the Hackman Scholar Program.

This program gives students the opportunity to work side by side with professors or advisers to complete extensive research in an area of interest. The



photo by Scott Onigman '15

**Emily Hawk '16 researched history of dance in Philadelphia.**

research takes place over the course of ten weeks during the summer.

"Most people would think of New York City when they think of a big city for dance, and that was true—New York City was a cultural hub—but Philadelphia was still very prominent in the dance scene," Hawk said. "Professor Brooks and I were interested in seeing why that was so."

"Three out of the four big ballet stars at the time were based in Philadelphia,

but nobody thinks of Philadelphia as a dance city now," she continued. "We were looking at the three dancers in particular: Mary Ann Lee, George Washington Smith, and Augusta Maywood. From there we discovered many other people that performed in Philadelphia at the time, but that was our springboard."

With the resources from The College's Shadek Fackenthal Library, Brooks and Hawk assembled a chronology of performances with their respective locations, titles, and performers. The two also traveled to The Library Company of Philadelphia, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts for their research.

"That was where we started filling in the gaps of information," Hawk said. "We would find playbills and on the playbill would be all the missing information of who was playing what part that wasn't listed in the book that we had here at Shadek-Fackenthal."

Throughout the research process, Hawk and Brooks handled actual documents from the 1800s that they have been cataloging for their research.

"It was now in my hand," Hawk said. "That was really

exhilarating."

Using Google Spreadsheet and a research tool called Zotero, Hawk and Brooks organized the photos they compiled and information they acquired.

"Professor Brooks was very trusting in that I wouldn't overlook a lot of the information, so she let me have my own system with my notebooks, my laptop, my spreadsheet to organize all the information and keep it," Hawk said.

Hawk is hopeful that all this research will help her with her future studies and is appreciative of the experience the Hackman Scholar Program gave her.

"To get this kind of experience and to get paid to do it—it's like a dream," Hawk said.

"Just the experience alone would've been great," she continued. "It wasn't just the academic components, but it was also the social components and the connection that you make with the professor. I would definitely recommend the Hackman Scholar program to anyone that gets asked to do it."

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## F&M Players looks forward to another rewarding year *Bye Bye Birdie, Broadway Revue chosen for year's performances*

### Upcoming Performances

by Zoe Reszytniak

This year will be an exciting one for the F&M Players. Jake Benedict '15 affectionately describes F&M Players, the school's student run theatre group, as a big family. Benedict became involved in Players his freshman year and is now president of the organization.

Being entirely run by students, the group faces several challenges when putting on performances—finding places to rehearse and making a schedule that works for everyone among the most prevalent.

"There are so many groups trying to find spaces, and when you are doing it with students who are doing it for fun you have to work with their schedules," Benedict said.

"We really pride ourselves on working with you to find your perfect schedule," Benedict continued.

These challenges are easily overshadowed by the benefits brought on by operating as a student-only organization.

"It allows the creative process to be it's own," Benedict said. "It allows students' creativity to go places."

Students collaborate with one another, finding what works best and



photo by Scott Onigman '15

**Rachael Herman '16, Pat Montgomery '16, and Katrina Wachter '15 are the directors for this year's F&M Players performances.**

what does not.

Each year, Players puts on two performances: a main stage production and a Broadway Revue. In the Spring of each year, any member of the organization is given the opportunity to propose a show for the upcoming year.

These proposals must include a plan of how the show will be put on, who will be directing, and who will be in the production crew. The proposals are reviewed by the board and the applicants are interviewed. A vote determines who will direct the shows

for the next year.

Rachael Herman '16 will be directing this year's main stage performance, *Bye Bye Birdie*, a Tony-award-winning Broadway production set in the 1950s. It tells the story of a young rock star, hoping to make one last publicity stunt before he is shipped off to fight in the war.

Last year, Herman made her debut in F&M Players and performed in *Into the Woods* and the annual Broadway Revue. According to Benedict, her proposal especially stuck out due to her very clear

vision for the production.

"I think she's going to put on a pretty amazing show," Benedict said.

Benedict believes Herman's involvement in Greek life will serve her well when overcoming the challenge of scheduling around recruitment week, which will be at the same time as tech week for the show.

This year's Broadway Revue will be co-directed by Katrina Wachter '15, and Pat Montgomery '16. The theme is "Dancing Through Life." Benedict spoke highly of the theme and song choices. During the interview process, Wachter and Montgomery had a distinct approach to how they would produce their show. Benedict believes they will have a very successful performance, as well.

F&M Players is for any student looking for a fun, rewarding experience. Even those not interested in theatre can help by working as technicians for the shows.

Becoming involved is a very simple process. Any freshman interested can attend the campus club sessions offered during orientation. Additionally, on September 10, at 6 p.m. in the Green Room Theater, there will be an information session for *Bye Bye Birdie*.

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# Summer’s top songs show wide variety in music styles

## Ariana Grande, Iggy Azalea dominate Summer charts with endless hits

### Summer Playlist

by Michelle Veliz

Summertime is a time everyone looks forward to after school has come to end. Not only is there better weather in the Summer, but there is also better music. This music playlist, filled with awesome beats and cool hooks from the top five most popular songs of the Summer, is what made Summer 2014 so enjoyable and entertaining.

#### 5) “Am I Wrong”

This is one of the most positive songs out there. The Norwegian duo Nico & Vinz were inspired to create this song in order to show that anything can be achieved if you stick your mind to it.

One of the lyrics that stands out the most in this song is, “I’mma be on the top of the world,” since it shows the struggles unknown of working artists try to overcome. This line is very powerful since it shows people there is eventually a good result that awaits them after a working process.

Overall, this song is about dreams being achieved and the way that this song is set up makes it very catchy.

#### 4) “Stay With Me”

British singer and songwriter Sam Smith performed this song on the March 29 episode of *Saturday Night Live* in the United States.

The song can connect with any lover. In this song, the artist shows his fragile side by asking his former lover to stay with him.

Even though the song has an over-sentimental chorus, it is very relatable to those who have had broken hearts. The song may not necessarily



photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

### Iggy Azalea and Ariana Grande dominated the 2014 Summer music charts with numerous hits and popular music collaborations.

make someone happy due to its content, but it is perfect for those to hear when they are feeling sad.

#### 3) “Problem”

Not surprisingly, Ariana Grande and Iggy Azalea have been big this year. However, their collaboration on this blend of up-tempo, dance-pop, R&B, and hip-hop gave them a spot in the top five of Billboard’s Hot 100.

The melody is very original since it contains a mixture of different musical instruments, like the drums, saxophone loops, and trumpets. Ariana Grande’s unique voice adds powerful dimensions to the song, making the listener take notice of the song right away.

The addition of Iggy Azalea’s rap verse is the last piece to make this song close to perfection. Overall, this song presents a positive message for those who are struggling with everyday issues in their own life.

#### 2) “Rude”

It is impossible not to know the lyrics of this very common song, which

incorporates old school elements like reggae and uses poppy hooks to develop a relaxing sensation.

The interesting part about this song is the lyrics, since they bring out common everyday themes including love, teenage rebellion, and sacrifices. The words to this song present a common everyday struggle most youngsters face in their teenage years. The fact that this song is so relatable is what makes it super popular.

Once this song starts playing on the radio, you will automatically start singing along. If you’re not careful,

you might even catch yourself dancing a bit or nodding your head back and forth to the beat.

#### 1) “Fancy”

This song first premiered on BBC Radio 1 Xtra on February 6, 2014. Shortly after, the song began playing non-stop on the radio and has been ever since. It is very fun to sing along to especially since the lyrics are easy to comprehend. It’s not your typical Nicki Minaj or Eminem rap song where the words are spoken so fast that you’re not able to sing along.

One of best parts of this song is the hook. The hook empowers the perks of living the glam life. Even though the lyrics in this song don’t really make any sense or present any special message, it still can still uplift spirits and take away people from their reality. There is a reason why this song made it the top five on Billboard’s 100. So don’t be surprised if you hear women chanting to this song in the club.

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## • New Releases •

### Week of Monday, September 8

#### Music

##### Tuesday, Sept. 9



Ryan Adams  
*Ryan Adams*



Anomaly  
*Lecrae*



Justin Townes Earle  
*Single Mothers*



Lee Brice  
*I Don’t Dance*

#### Movies

##### Friday, Sep. 12



*Dolphin Tale 2*



*No Good Deed*



*Bird People*



*The Drop*

#### Blu-Ray

##### Tuesday, Sep. 9



*Captain America: The Winter Soldier*



*Brick Mansions*



*God’s Pocket*



*A Long Way Down*

—photos courtesy of [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)



## Throwback of the Week



### Artist: Bill Medley & Jennifer Warnes

### Track: “The Time of My Life”



photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Award for Best Original Song, and Grammy Award for Best Pop Performance by a Duo. In November of 1987, “The Time of My Life” hit #1 on the *Billboard Hot 100* for one week and remained at #1 on the *Adult Contemporary* for four weeks. The song has been covered and featured in songs and commercials over 10 times. *Dirty Dancing* has become one of the most classic and adored romantic movies of all time, and “The Time of My Life” continues to be performed, covered, and listened to after almost three decades. Hopefully F&M students had the time of their lives this Summer and are ready for the year ahead.

In honor of Summer’s conclusion, this week’s throwback is “The Time of My Life,” recorded by Bill Medley and Jennifer Warnes for the 1987 film *Dirty Dancing*. This song is famously danced to by Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Grey at the conclusion of the film and represents the end of an unforgettable Summer. “The Time of My Life” won the Academy Award for Best Original Song, the Golden Globe



# Franklin & Marshall Sports

## Sizing up Seahawks' competition in defending Super Bowl victory



photo courtesy of the NYPost.com

The Seattle Seahawks are the reigning Super Bowl champions. While last season's victory should provide the team with positive momentum, there are many strong NFL teams this year. Only time will tell who will emerge victorious.

**BY BRIAN OCAMPO**  
Contributing Writer

Leaves are falling, temperatures are dropping, and dreadful school shopping has commenced; this can only mean one thing, Fall is quickly approaching us, right? Wrong. It means football season is right around the corner!

It all kicked off Sept. 4 as the Seattle Seahawks, defending Super Bowl champions, took on one of the powerhouses of the NFL, the Green Bay Packers. This game should provide sheer excitement between two dynamic offenses going up against two of the best defenses in the league. Everyone saw the defensive clinic that the Seahawks put on last year, led by the soft-spoken, All-Pro cornerback Richard Sherman, and no one expects anything different this season, making the Seahawks one of the clear-cut favorites to make it back to the promised land in February.

That isn't saying they're going to win it all; if there is anything I've learned as a football fan over the years, it's that anything can and will happen. For this same exact reason, every year I tell myself that this will be the year that my Dallas Cowboys finally right the ship and get back to their championship-winning ways. All jokes aside, though, this season is shaping up to be a great one, and I personally cannot wait for it to get started.

As I mentioned earlier, the Seahawks are heavy favorites to hoist the Lombardi trophy when it's all

said and done, but they'll have to get through many other promising teams if they wish to do so. For starters, their opponents in the Super Bowl, the Denver Broncos, are still bitter from last year's defeat and are ready to get back out there. The team is led once again by 38-year-old quarterback Peyton Manning, who didn't do much last year except set new records for touchdown (55) and passing yards (5,477). Any team with Manning on the roster is going to be a favorite, but it's also the Broncos' offseason additions that make their chances that much better. The Broncos acquired highly-coveted cornerback Aqib Talib, wide receiver Emmanuel Sanders, and extremely effective defensive end Demarcus Ware. These pickups make the already stacked Broncos team an even bigger juggernaut, and it gives them a very likely chance to compete for the championship once again.

Aside from the previous Super Bowl participants, there are many other teams that have a great shot at the title, as well—for instance, the San Francisco 49ers, who were one play away from making their second straight appearance in the Super Bowl last year. With coach John Harbaugh at the helm and prolific quarterback Colin Kaepernick leading the offense, no one would be surprised to see them back at the top. The same goes for recent Super Bowl winners, such as the Packers and the New Orleans Saints. With respective quarterbacks, Aaron Rodgers and

Drew Brees, these teams have just as good a chance of making it back as anyone else.

And, lastly, who could talk about favorites without mentioning good old Tom Brady and the New England Patriots? After a successful season and making it to yet another AFC championship game, the Patriots are desperate to get over the hump and win a championship, something they haven't done since 2005. With offseason addition of arguably one of the best corners in the game, Darelle Revis, the Pats have to feel very good about their chances this year. With Brady and coach Bill Belichick on your sideline, only great things can happen.

Because of the unpredictable nature of the NFL, all teams mentioned earlier could very well end up doing poorly, and a totally unexpected team could end up on the top. Of course, the New York Giants have to be mentioned in this category, as this team seems to always come back very strong after a challenging season. The Kansas City Chiefs are also in line to have a repeat of the strong season they had last year, as coach Andy Reid tries to help the franchise become consistent year in and year out. The Redskins, and their acquisition of highlight-reel wide receiver Deshaun Jackson, hope to be a very exciting team this year with third-year quarterback Robert Griffin III coming off an injury-plagued season. If all goes right for other good teams such as the Steelers, Eagles, Ravens, Bengals, Panthers, Bears,

Chargers, Colts, Lions, and Falcons, they could very well easily make a run for the whole thing.

Last, but surely not least, there is no way I could write about this upcoming season without mentioning Johnny Manziel, or, as he's usually referred to, Johnny Football. If you've watched any football, whether that be collegiate or NFL, in the past year or two, you've probably heard about the infamous Johnny Football. Known for his explosive play on and off the field, it's hard not to like him. While his offseason antics get more attention than his play on the field, Johnny is on a mission to prove to everyone that he just takes the work hard, play hard sentiment to another level. Highly criticized for his lavish and wild lifestyle, Manziel takes a lot of heat from NFL veterans all over. To be fair, no athlete is more scrutinized—besides, perhaps, LeBron James or Tiger Woods—and he started garnering this attention when he was just a college student.

I personally would love to see Johnny succeed in the NFL, and, at this past year's draft, he was given that opportunity after being chosen in the first round by the Cleveland Browns. After a QB competition that lasted all Summer, the Browns decided to bench Johnny and went with Brian Hoyer, a proven backup quarterback with experience, as their week 1 starter against the Steelers on Sep. 7. But don't be too upset, Johnny Manziel fans; the Browns will have troubles on offense now that their star wide out Josh Gordon is suspended for the whole season due to his violation of the league's substance-abuse policy after he failed a drug test for marijuana. With the Browns' offense struggling, coach Mike Pettine will surely give Manziel a shot to prove himself. It's up to Johnny to take full advantage of the opportunity.

That just about wraps up what has been a hectic offseason, and that only means this upcoming season will surely be one for the books. Whether your team is a favorite to win it all or a team projected to be out of the race early, it would be hard to say you're not excited for the season. I think I speak for a lot of people when I say that it's about time our Sundays have meaning once again.

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